



U.S. Congressman

**Mark Steven Kirk**

Proudly serving the people of the 10th District of Illinois

**\*\* U.S. Congressman Mark Steven Kirk, Proudly Serving the People of the 10th District of Illinois \*\*****Website - About Mark - Press Room - Constituent Services - Contact**

## Featured Video...



### Featured Video of the Week

**06/15/09:** Congressman Kirk discusses his efforts to fight the rise of "Kush" in the suburbs, a new type of "super-marijuana" that is as expensive as crack cocaine. [Click here to view the video clip.](#)

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## Kirk In the News...

6/16/2009: [Lawmakers offer 'practical' health reform plan](#)

6/16/2009: [Moderates to Present Their Health Care Plan](#)

6/16/2009: [Rep. Kirk wants tougher penalties for](#)

Dear Friends,

Should the federal government sue the Salvation Army for discrimination because it requires its employees to speak English within one year?

As you may have heard, the federal government is suing the Salvation Army for letting go two employees who refused to learn English. Most of the less fortunate Americans the Salvation Army helps speak only English. To make sure its employees can do the most good, the Salvation Army requires its employees to learn English within one year of their employment.

Last month, Senator Lamar Alexander amended the Commerce Department appropriations bill to prohibit the government from filing similar lawsuits. Two weeks ago, I voted in the House to support the Alexander language blocking such lawsuits. We won by a vote of 218-186.

Recently, House Speaker Nancy Pelosi promised to delete this provision, thus allowing the federal government to continue its lawsuit against the Salvation Army (<http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2007/11/15/AR2007111501866.html>)

I do not think lawsuits like these against the Salvation Army are worth merit. A vast majority of the people the Salvation Army helps speak only one language: English.

What do you think? Please let me know with your vote on our issue survey below.

It is an honor to serve you in Congress.

Sincerely,

Mark Kirk  
Member of Congress

Both Houses of Congress voted to block federal lawsuits against the Salvation Army for requiring its employees to speak English. Speaker Pelosi disagrees and wants these lawsuits to go forward.

### Should the government sue the Salvation Army for requiring its employees to speak English?

- ☐ Yes  
☐ No  
☐ Do not know

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Thank you for responding to our survey.

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